

many Members of the Senate say they did not sign the contract, but America signed the contract when they elected us and gave us a majority in both Houses of Congress.

I think these four principles I have outlined embody a reasonable and a flexible approach to living up to what we promised we would do and yet being willing to work with the President in saying: These are our priorities as to how we spend the \$12 trillion that can be spent over the next 7 years while still balancing the Federal budget. What are yours? Government must learn to live within the constraint that, quite frankly, families face every month when they sit down around the kitchen table and get out that pencil and piece of paper. Families do not have the luxury of saying, "Let us assume that something great is going to happen, let us spend additional money." They have to negotiate how they are going to spend the income they have available. We should be willing to negotiate with President Clinton on that basis. We should hear the President out in terms of his priorities, but we have a priority that was given as a mandate by the voters in 1994. That mandate and that priority is balance the Federal budget under reasonable and realistic assumptions.

Anybody can balance the budget if you let them make up the assumptions. Any family can live within its budget if they can make up their income. That is not the trick. The real challenge, however, that is faced every night by millions of families sitting around their kitchen tables—which, quite frankly, we do not face here in Washington, and have not faced for 25 years—is how do you do it based on the amount of money you are realistically going to be able to spend? Every day in America, families are making these tough decisions, and they are having to say no to the things they want. They are having to say no because we never say no. They are having to say no to their children because we will not say no to spending more and more money of their money.

I think the time has come for us to say no. I want to say no so families and businesses can say yes again. I want less Government, and more freedom. I want less Government, stronger families, more opportunity, and more freedom. I think the way we get there is to stand up for some very simple principles. We are committed to balancing the budget under realistic assumptions. We have set out what we can spend and still achieve our objective. We will spend no more.

We promised the working people of this country a very small, very modest, very targeted amount of tax relief. It in no way gets working Americans back to where they were 20 years ago, but it is a step in the right direction. It is something we promised and I am not going to back off from it. We can negotiate over how to spend the money, but not how much to spend. And, finally, if

in fact we conclude that the assumptions of the budget should be updated, that we should assume a more optimistic future—and I think we can make one by balancing the budget—but if we makes these assumptions, then every penny of savings that comes from those new rosy assumptions should go to deficit reduction. None of it should be spent.

These are the principles I intend to fight for. They are principles I think embody what I fought for in the 1994 election when we elected a Republican majority. They were embodied in the Contract With America. And I think, quite frankly, if we want people to believe politicians mean anything when they say it, then there is one way to achieve this and that is to actually do what you said you would do. I believe that if we stick to these principles we would finally be living up to the commitments that we made. I, for one, intend to do it.

I wanted to go on record today as to what my position is, because I do not want anyone to feel that, while they were away negotiating with President Clinton, somehow it was not clear where I stood. And when this final deal is reached, I do not want anyone to be surprised, if it violates one of these very, simple and, I think, eminently reasonable, principles, if I do not vote for the deal—because I cannot vote for a budget that does not live up to the deal we made first with the American people in 1994.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. THOMAS. First, let me congratulate the Senator from Texas on his very strong endorsement of the balanced budget amendment, the thing that has really been, what will be, the capstone of what we have done all year here, that will really make fundamental changes in the direction the Government takes. I admire his strength standing for it.

Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask it be referred appropriately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be received and referred to the appropriate committee.

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. THOMAS pertaining to the introduction of S. 1434 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANTORUM). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT AMENDMENTS

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, in returning to the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1995, I would like to address a few points.

There has been quite a bit of discussion about the idea of these unfunded Federal mandates that we have had for years. And in fact the Congressional Budget Office pointed out that probably one of the most burdensome, onerous Federal regulations that has been imposed upon local and State government has been the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986. The unfunded mandates format for 1995 that was passed earlier this year and signed into law this year by the President's signature does not go into effect until January 1, 1996 and, therefore, this legislation before us today, Senate bill 1316, does not come in under the requirements of the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995.

As the sponsor of that act which was signed into law, I was determined and absolutely dedicated that we are going to stop unfunded Federal mandates around here and, therefore, as this bill has been developed over 9 months I continually stayed in touch with the Congressional Budget Office. And in fact, I then submitted Senate bill 1316 to the Congressional Budget Office and asked them to please go through this legislation as though the unfunded mandates format were currently law, used all the same criteria, and the tough examination of this legislation. They have done so.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter from the Congressional Budget Office be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, November 7, 1995.

Hon. JOHN H. CHAFEE,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1316, the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1995.

Enacting S. 1316 would affect both direct spending and receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,
JAMES L. BLUM
(For June E. O'Neill, Director).

Enclosure.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

1. Bill number: S. 1316.
2. Bill title: Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1995.